

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

Having analysed the conflicts in Oliver Twist and Search of the Moon King's Daughter in the previous chapters, I would like to draw some conclusion. In my opinion, both Oliver Twist and Search of the Moon King's Daughters are two excellent books that are worth analysing. After connecting the conflicts with the sociological approach, I have discovered a great deal of knowledge of the history of Victorian England. Each conflict provides me with different findings about the lifestyle and culture of the period.

In Oliver Twist, I find some social conflicts between Oliver and the master when Oliver asks for more food; between Oliver and Sikes when Sikes forces him to break into people's house; between Mr. Fang and Mr. Brownlow when Oliver is put on trial whether he is guilty or not; between Nancy and Fagin to show Nancy's disagreement towards Fagin's treatment to Oliver; and between Mr. Brownlow and Mr. Grimwig who are trying to judge Oliver if he is a good boy or not.

There are two inner conflicts in this novel, which are the inner conflict of Mr. Brownlow trying to make up his mind if Oliver is an imposter or not, and the inner conflict of Nancy trying to decide whether to save Oliver or not. Most of the social conflicts are closely related to the government and their poor management for the

people, especially lower class people. The poor class is living in filthy areas and they have to survive with dirty works. Boys are taught to pick-pocket and girls are taught to be prostitutes at a very young age. The condition reflects Victorian England, which was so poor that the government had no more place for them but to put them in a workhouse where they were required to work a lot with little food.

In Search of the Moon King's Daughter, I find some social conflicts between Emmaline and her mother when Emmaline tries to make her mother stop taking drugs; between Phoebe and Cat when Phoebe offers to help the broken family of Emmaline; and between Phoebe and Emmaline when Emmaline refuses to stay in a bigger room and wants to work in the millhouse instead. Besides, I also find an inner conflict in this novel, which is the inner conflict of Cat when she has to decide whether to move to Tibbing to work in the millhouse to earn money or not. The causes of the conflicts in this novel are poverty and different social classes. Phoebe, who comes from the rich family, looks down on Cat, who comes from a poor family, thus this causes the social clash between two different classes. Phoebe prides herself on her wealth and thinks that her poor relatives will need her help. However, the truth is almost everyone, including the poor like Emmaline, at that time believed in the term 'self-help'. They trusted themselves that they could solve their problems without any help from other people. As a result, they remained poor. Cat, who lives in poverty, is forced to work in a terrible place that leads to a worst condition to her family. There is a social clash between the two classes because the rich took advantage of the poor' fragility in the society and in return, the poor disliked them.

The conflicts in both of the novels have some similarities. Often the conflicts are between the rich and the poor. Oliver and Emmaline are two protagonists of the novels that are described as people who come from a low class family background. Each of them have to deal with people who are not of their kind. For example, Emmaline has to face Phoebe, who thinks that the poor needs her help and Emmaline has to turn down Phoebe's offer to stay with her. In fact, Emmaline is happier staying with her mother, because the family bond is very strong. Poor children were to help their families and work. Oliver has to face Mr. Grimwig, who has an opinion that all street boys, including him, are thieves and imposters.

Another similarity is that both Oliver and Emmaline are two children who become the victims of the society of Victorian England. Both of them come from a low class, and were born in the countryside. They each go to a big city in search for good things, but end up being trapped in a bad condition. They both have to endure working in a harsh condition. For example, Oliver meets Fagin and his gang to learn how to do pick-pocketing and burglary. Emmaline, despite her willingness to work with her mother in the millhouse, ends up working in a sewing room. However, both of them get fortunes in the end.

Apart from the similarities of the conflicts, I also find differences in the two novels. In Search of the Moon King's Daughter, most of the conflicts are related to family matters. Emmaline has a problem with Cat, her mother, who is taking Godfreys so much that the money is running out soon. Emmaline and Phoebe have a dispute whether to work in the millhouse or to stay with Phoebe. In Oliver Twist,

most of the conflicts are related to how the government operates in Victorian period, and the poor who suffer under their management.

Another difference lies in the focus of description. Although Linda Holeman was inspired by Charles Dickens' books, her describing the Victorian society at that time is different from that of Dickens'. Charles Dickens is a social critic, and his books clearly portray the life of Victorian period, whereas in Search of the Moon King's Daughter, Linda Holeman describes more about the individual and her family. One of the themes in most Holeman's writing is search of identity. She focuses on one individual and how she interacts with people around her. It is Holeman's goal to create a character that is strong and determined enough to fight what she wants (Heller).

While reading these two books, I sympathise with both of the protagonists. They become the victims of the society at that time. They are living in the dark, beneath the luxury and prosperity of the upper class. In workhouses, they work very hard with insufficient food and uncomfortable beds. As it was the time when development was still progressing, the government of England did not seem to manage its society well so a lot of poor people underwent the injustice of the world. The number of crime and prostitutes in Victorian London increased due to the high rate of poor people living jobless at that time. There was a big difference in lifestyle between the lower and upper classes. The upper class enjoyed their time, while the lower class had to do a lot of nasty things such as pick-pocketing, burglary or stealing to feed themselves.

Last but not least, I would like to say that it is a pleasure to read these two novels. They have greatly added more knowledge to me about the situations of the Victorian England. Oliver Twist has always been one of my favourite books as I first watched the movie, and I am glad to be given the chance to analyse this book in depth with sociological approach. Search of the Moon King's Daughter is another good book to complete my understanding of my analysis. Both of the books give useful information for my analysis as their stories are related to each other. From analysing these, I now always remember of the suffering of these children who undergo suffering at a very young age, and the injustice of the Victorian world that has shaped these poor innocent lives.